



CENTRAL OREGON ARTS SCENE

# THEATER COMPANIES EAGER TO GET BACK ON THE BOARDS

BY DAVID JASPER • The Bulletin

**A**fter month upon month of consuming our entertainment through screens, those who love the excitement and immediacy of live performance have something to celebrate: local theater producers are setting the stage for the return of live theater.

With Oregon oh-so-close to the tipping point — 70% of citizens receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccination shot, the metric Gov. Kate Brown has set for reopening — area thespians are almost done waiting in the wings.

This summer will see the return of community theater at Cascades Theatrical Company, where the drama “Revenge and Sorrow in Thebes” is slated to run July 16-25.

“It is a go,” director Marla Manning said of the show, written by Central Oregon playwright Stephanie Vandergrift, who describes it as “a reformulation of the Greek classic tragedy, “The Bacchae of Euripides.”

The July run will mark the first time “Revenge and Sorrow in Thebes” has been fully staged in Oregon, according to Manning, whose Sisters-based Silent Echo Theater Company presented a reading of it three years ago.

The show calls for 18 actors. Casting began in May, but took a little longer than expected, Manning said Tuesday. The cast in-



Submitted photo

**Theater in the Park will return to Drake Park with “Into the Woods” in August. Seen here is the set-up for Theater in the Park’s 2019 production of “La Cage aux Folles.”**

cludes five teens.

“I’m not sure how old our oldest cast member is, but basically, it ranges from

teens to 70s, so that’s nice,” she said. “True community theater.”

With about five weeks to go before open-

ing night, “our time is a little crunched,” Manning said. “It’s pretty close ... but I’m also trying to make sure people have their summer and not have to be at the theater every night.”

After this long away, they may not complain. If you’re looking for something lighter on-stage entertainment at CTC sooner than July might want to catch “A Uniquely Offensive Comedy Showcase: Sister Ethel & Friends” on June 25. It stars local comedians Danny Hoffman, Romia Hips, Debbie Harrington, Amy Campbell, and Jake Woodmansee.

Manning also expects her nonprofit company Silent Echo to return with its annual one-act show, “Now You’re Talking,” sometime in or after September. Last year’s March run had to be cut short as the COVID curtain began to come down.

“The goal is to keep our record up and still do the one-act in 2021. Just, it will be a different time of year,” Manning said.

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